



*"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.'"*

**Luke 2:10**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today marks the end of a truly extraordinary year. We have all been through our own personal and collective challenges, and as I look back and reflect on all that has been achieved through adversity I am awed by our staff, families, and most of all our amazing children. It would be easy to look back at this year and focus on the negatives, however there has been a colossal amount of positive that deserves to be recognised and celebrated by our whole school community. I am particularly pleased that our gospel value focus has fostered growth in empathy and compassion for others; this is especially noticeable when teachers are nominating children for the Head teachers Award, where so many are chosen for showing kindness, gentleness and thoughtfulness towards others. Once again I am extremely proud of them: they are a credit to you all.

On behalf of all the staff at St Chad's, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas. We hope you all enjoy a well-deserved break with your families, and look forward to seeing you all back healthy and rested in 2021.

God Bless Mrs Mitchener

**Pope Francis's prayer request for December:**

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

## CAFOD Collection

A huge thank you to all our kind families and staff, who have supported the CAFOD collection so generously and who have encouraged their children to donate £1 to this worthwhile cause. The collection has so far raised £385.00, which is a fantastic total. I'm sure that it will help make a difference to many families around the world, in need of support at this difficult time. I have been moved by the generosity of some families, who have donated far more than requested. Thank you also for supporting the message of social justice, fairness and equality, which we have been sharing with the children this half term. Many of their prayers and promises, on the reverse of their stars, demonstrated that they have a deep understanding of the need for equality for all people and ethnicities around the world, and how they can be a part of a positive change.



As you can see the hall Christmas tree, is full of their Stars of Justice.

# Advent Breakfast

This year we celebrated a very different type of Advent Breakfast. Although we could not celebrate our traditional family breakfast in the hall, the children were given the opportunity to share a special breakfast, while reflecting on the season of Advent. We had a shared zoom assembly and lit the Advent Wreath, while listening to carols and message about the Christmas Season.



## *Special Times This Month December*

- 6th 2nd Sunday of Advent
- 8th Immaculate Conception
- 13th 3rd Sunday of Advent
- 20th 4th Sunday of Advent
- 25th Christmas Day
- 26th St Stephen's Feast Day
- 27th Holy Family Feast Day



# First Holy Communions 2021



The registration form for First Holy Communion 2021 is now available at St Chad's church. The form can be collected by the exit door as you leave after mass. Please complete the form and return it to the presbytery-5 Whitworth Road ,as soon as possible, but no later than 9th January. Children must be in Year 3 or above in order to join in with our preparation programme. The classes take place on a Saturday morning in St Chad's Hall.

The programme will begin in February 2021, to allow for any Covid restrictions in January, and the First Holy Communions themselves will be early in July.

All information and dates and times of classes will be given to you at our first meeting for parents in February. We will contact you by email or text to inform you of the meeting time and date when a decision has been made.

For times of masses at St Chad's, please look at the parish website. There are weekend masses , and there is also a morning mass daily.

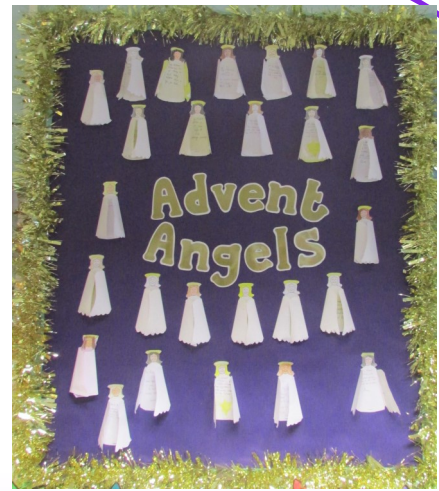
The First Holy Communion Team, look forward to meeting you and sharing this special time of preparation with you and your children.

Mrs Angie Henley



# Advent Angels

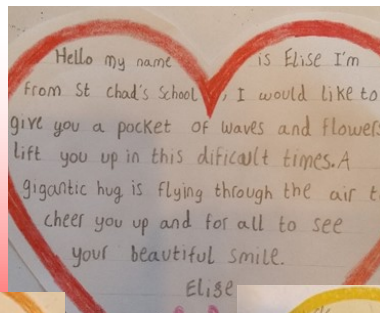
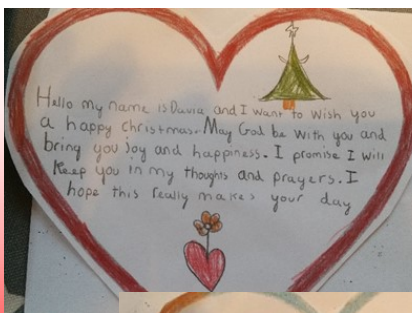
A lovely tradition, we have here at St Chad's, is for every child at the beginning of the Advent season, to make an Advent Angel. Every child from Reception to Yr6, writes an Advent promise on their angel to help them prepare their hearts to receive Jesus on Christmas Day. These are then displayed and the children are encouraged to reflect on, and 'live' their promise daily. These are just a few of our lovely Advent Angel displays.



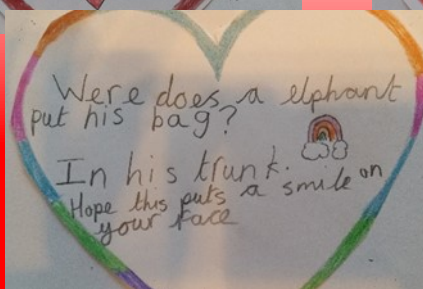
## Hearts for Homes



The children all wrote a message to send to people in care homes in the local area, and to people in the Parish of St Chad's who are alone. Here is a selection from across all the age groups. We hope our messages will make them smile and let them know that we are thinking of them!



Mrs Gallagher





# Christmas Liturgy

## With Archbishop John Wilson



On Thursday 17th December, Year 4 and 5 joined together with 268 classes from across the Southwark Diocese to be part of a special Christmas Liturgy led by Archbishop John Wilson. It was a lovely liturgy, sharing the nativity story and the message of this Christmas period. It was also lovely to see children from other schools, (Infant schools all the way up to Catholic 6th Form Colleges) coming together, in faith to share this important feast.

Year 4 and 5, listened, watched and participated wonderfully. They also received a special Christmas blessing from the Archbishop.



## A Christmas Blessing

Loving God, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

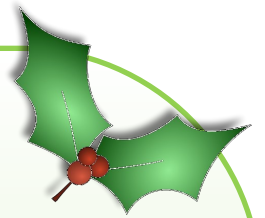
May Christ's peace and hope be with you and your family now and in the days ahead.



## Grow in Love, Live in Peace



# Nativities



A huge thank you to all the children for the huge amount of work that went into the practice of their Nativities, and to the parents for supporting practice at home! They were so moving, and none of it would have been possible without the efforts of everyone in school and at home.

A big thank you to Mrs Flavin, Miss Roberts, Mrs White and the amazing Nursery and Receptions teams for making this Christmas special for all the children.

The Nativities have been videoed and Nursery and Reception parents will soon be receiving a code, that will allow you to watch your son/daughter participate in this very special play.



## Grow in Love, Live in Peace